Dear Roger,

2/14/91

Your memo on Sylvia's papers excellent, I'm glad you wrote it for several reasons, while they are not mine to make I also agree with some of your decisions, if that means anything to you, I have only a few minor disagreements to which I'll come, and although I was not aware of any reaction while reading it, rather while finishing rdading it just before going to bed, I think that for some reason I can't figure out, it kept me from falling asleep. and that is extraordinarily rare! While lying away for more than an hour and a half, perhaps closer to two hours, and after getting up this morning, I could not decide what had this effect.

Through all my serious surgeries and the minor ones I've never had any trouble going to sleep, and I had two operations I was not expected to survive. The doctors ordered sleeping pitions ad lib and through all the operations there was only one time I asked for one, when I'd stayed up for a baseball league championship game in the west. It left me keyed up. and that potion, ironically, was wasted because I had hardly been asleep when I was awakened for blood tests! I wake up at night urinate and, including last night, I never have trouble returning to sleep, probably in less than a minute most times.

In recent months, after sleeping well, I awaken tired and stay tired, meaning more than usual, for about a half hour. For that time I sit and read. This morning I could not pay attention, could not get my mind on the reading. So, I sat and thought and I've reached a few conclusions that may explain my inability to get to sleep-even though I'd I'd arisen at 3:30.

Sylvia was an unusually intelligent woman, really brilliant. In spite of some of what I'll say, believe me, I still respect her greatly and I think her book is magnificent. Despite her rare gifts she was still human and like all of us made her mistakes. She was capable of terribly bad judgement while at the same time being as sharp a person as I ever knew. For example, she spotted Garrison for what he was immediately. I didn't and I made bad judgements I won't now go into. When her feelings, perhaps emotions, were involved, she also could be dishonest. and, generous as she was, stingy in a petty way.

Because I mention these things, I am not sending a copy to Jerry or Wrone. and I wonder why you excluded McKnight when her papers for now at least are there. Thanks to him they had and have a safe place. I asked him but he did it.

She went ape for Epstein. I trusted her judgement when she raved about his book, which I think she indexed, and helped the bastard 's publisher publicize it before I read it when Epstein himself would not. Even when she knew he was yellow and had other character faults she was still his strong supporter. as late as when her books was in page proof I showed her an error in it involving him, and me, and she did not correct it. Read her introduction, on the sequence in which the books appeared. She read the limited edition of mine in 1965. She got one about May 6 or 7 when I printed it, 1966. Epstein's was as she knew published that June, the end. It makes no difference to me and it did not bother

then, except as it reflected on her. Yet with her mind she should have known on first reading that it was a pro-FBI anti-liberal book. There is nothing wrong with being anti-liberal or anything else if it is honest. Epstein's was a political diabtribe she should have recognized for these things. I think she did not miss them and she did not change. Perhaps she did later.

There are other things that are small I won't go into. My point is that she was human and made human mistakes we all in varying degree make.

Those with you were not small. She was dishonest and her judgement was wretchedly bad. She abused your friendship and your trust. You may be right on how this came about but determined as she could be when I knew her, absent something already happening in her mind she should have been, to be honest, to continue to be a friend to a friend, and in her own selfish interest.

I am sure I told you that I believe we should not censor the history of the critics and that this extends to not withholding nasty and untruthful things I think she has on me. The one that sticks in mind is the consequence of the lousy thing that bastard Larry Schiller did. He edited the tapes he made and was extremely dishonest about them. He also had me saying about Sylvia what I did not say and if one stops to think about it, could not have said because it was before her book was out. What I'd said about Popkin, who made a book out of Lane's, Epstein' and mine, he had me saying about her. As soon as I read that I wrote and told her the truth. I do not recall any response. If she did respond, it did not stick in my mind. I think she believed Schiller.

Whatever the reason, her judgement was miserable about you, the best she could have hoped for, and not a bit better in selecting Greg.

She could have done, if she really wanted her papers at CUNY, what I did. Found out. Here the interest was so great at Hood that the president, the vice president, the librarian and a couple of other officials came with McKnight and they took care of everything. They had their lawyer draw up what I wanted, without cost to me. If she'd asked CUNY and it wanted her papers, it would have done the same thing. The things that you say need to be done are the usual responsibility of the university and its staffs are competent and can do them. (I was not aware that she had the unpublished manuscripts of others but that need not present any problem that competent professional librarians cannot handle properly.)

What you say about her being influenced by relatives makes sense and I can think of no other explanation. But the Sylvia I knew would not have been dominated by anyone, including relatives, no matter how strong a feeling she might have had for them. So I think that there may have been changes in her that you did not perceive.

It is time for me to go out for the morning papers if I am to read them without taking the time from what I want to do later in the day and I want to leave a little earlier

take it would be to use on her papers. He also gave different sums he said Stone had offered. I find myself wondering whether he had in fact accepted Stone's money and had second thoughts and did they push him across that thin line?

I think it best that you did not mention the names of those she feared might vandalize her papers and at the same time I'm curious and would like to know because increasingly I'm finding thing of which I have a clear ecollection missing. People do come here and if I wanted to supervise their access, which I don't, I can't.

Don't worry too much about the tapes of shows not surviving. Wrone has all of Gandolfo's and he missed nothing.

You get to Hood at the bottom of 15. I had nothing personal in mind when urging Greg to deposit them at Hood. My thinking was related to her papers. Compared to what is and will be available they are small. I think that most genuine students, other than if anyone were making a study of Sylvia, would be attracted to the largest deposit. It is one of the reasons I thought there would be more usex of hers once made available at Hood than elsewhere. While it is true that there are more students in and near the larger cities, of which Boston is one and there after years Epstein's papers are not used at all, you are not talking about in-depth scholarship or study if you talk about two days or a few more during a break.

Aside from those who live in the New York area and can work on papers while living at home, you'll not find a place as economical for any student as here. I tell you a story about a stranger who was in touch with me by mail. He was an instructor at Penn State while working on his doctorate, on the Commission and communications. He had little money. He wanted to spend a week here. I did not ask Jerry. I've forgotten who phoned on the administrative end, but they got him a room in town for something like $20-$25 a week. I have no doubt they'd do something like that for any student and if a woman, I'm sure if a dorm room were empty shd'd be welcome to it. If the student has a car- and I don't know what they'd do about eating with their students, but I think they would allow it - and has to live economically, without any of the junk/fast-food joint stuff $5 or a little more a day could cover food adequately. Not fancy, but substantially and not junky.

There is a chance, as you say on 16, that her work could suffer from comeptition. But not for the period of her work. I think you should examine into your own thinking on this. It comes across to me like you want her work examined rather than any other by making it more accessible to New York area students. It is a fact that her work is dated. But anyone making a real study of the field would have read her book and would certainly not ignore her work in any large deposit. Her work itself would not suffer, not the Sylvia I knew. but it includes only the earliest days. If more, not much of it.

When you talk about faculty "qualified or interested in supervising," how many places are there with anyone who meets this qualification? Hood does have a small history-political science faculty but they are superb. and you'll not find anyone better that Jerry

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McKnight. He does take time, to much from his own work. He is probably the most popular member of the faculty and a couple of years ago some of the students wrote him in for governor or senator.

I think you should ask yourself questions about other items on this page. Aside from what represents metropolis provincialism. How, for example is where Sylvia lived or ~~cent to~~ work related to the best place for her materials to be used seriously, a word I emphasize. What difference does it make that a couple of experts on sound did anything at all? and then chickened out.

If there is really serious interest, for a thesis or a book, would her papers alone be what had to be consulted? Could Washington be avoided? How much is there is Washington that is not more accessible here?(And what a difference in environment and living costs!) They can get the nut stuff at Fensterwald's but nothing serious that isn't here with so much that isn't there and the hours of access in the FBI and CIA reading rooms are limited and what a different environment.

My recollections of Stamare not clear but I think he was bright, opinionated and not much else, with not much case knowledge and his own disconcerting at best Prejudices. Again, so limited to the earliest.

I think your decision is to disocciate yourself from her papers is wise and it is in your interest. The more you have to do with it the more unpleasant memories return. If I may make an additional suggestion, have nothing you can avoid to do with Melanson. I can't begin to make comprehensible to you how truly awful a person he is. In this field he is the exact opposite of a scholar. His books are terribly bad, egotripping, misleading, dishonest - really disinformational. He is trying to stake out a claim to owning the subject on all the assassinations and Greg has just widened the areas in which he can continue to make dishonest and baseles such claims or representations.

I also fear Lifton's evil influence out there.

I hope that Lemat gets and send me the copy of the will and the note he promised. I think we should be certain that it really is a will and not just something he wrote out when he was not in his right mind.

The more you have to do with this the more you'll be reminded of a breach of trust and of betrayal, including betrayal of friendship. I'd no more have expected that that you did and I know it has to be hard, so why not detach from it?

I think you should want all of your own work back, even if you have copies. In the long run, your work may be more important. Except what she imparted because she was so bright, her fine work is duplicated. Yours is not.

If you have the NYTimes 2/8 story on what Oliver Stone plans I'd appreciate a copy of it and of anything else like it so I can keep up.

Thanks

Best
Harold